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The Commission of Fine Arts
14 September 1956

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The Commission reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Friday morning, September 14, 1956.

The following members were in attendance:

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
Mr. Felix de Weldon
Mrs. Emily Muir
Mr. Douglas Orr
Mr. Elbert Peets
Mr. William G. Perry

Mr. L. R. Wilson, Secretary, was also present.

Mr. Peets presided in the absence of Mr. Finley and Mr. Orr, who were detained by official business at the White House. Mr. Finley took over the Chair at 9:45 o'clock when he and Mr. Orr returned.

15) PROPOSED BUILDING FOR "THE EVENING STAR", Second Street and Virginia Avenue, S. E.

Mr. Waldron Faulkner, of Faulkner, Kingsbury and Stenhouse, voluntarily showed the members a model of the new building for "The Evening Star", although this project would not normally come before the Commission. The manner in which the technical and architectural problems had been solved were noted with approval. The Secretary was instructed to send Mr. Faulkner a letter to this effect.

16) SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS (Preliminary)

The following designs are for new buildings that fall within the area covered by the Shipstead-Luce Act, and were referred by the architects to the Commission for advice previous to formal application to the District Commissioners for Building Permits:

(a) Aviation Building, 734 Jackson Place, N. W. Mr. George Dolby of Associated Architects and Engineers, presented revised sketches for the proposed Aviation Building at 730-736 Jackson Place, N. W. The members agreed that, in the sketch identified with the number four, the architect had substantially accomplished the changes in design which they felt were required to make the design of the building harmonize with its important location. The architect said he would incorporate the approved design into the working drawings which will be submitted to the District Government for a building permit. The Secretary was instructed to advise Mr. Dolby in writing of this approval.

(b) Peoples Life Insurance Building, F, G, 25th and 26th Streets, N. W.

Mr. George W. Petticord, Jr., of Mills, Petticord and Mills, presented the revised drawings for the Peoples Life Insurance Building at F, G, 25th and 26th Streets, N. W. The members noted the improvement which had been effected in the designs of the facades since they were first presented at the meeting on 14 June 1956, and they also expressed satisfaction over the early submission of the design. Their approval of the design as submitted was recorded with the recommendation that the subdivisions flanking the central motif be widened to bring them into conformity with the scale of the established design for the standard bay, and that the height of the top tier windows be restudied. Mr. Petticord said he would try to show the revised drawings at the next meeting.

(c) Parking Garage at 1335 E Street, N. W. Mr. Hewitt Wells of Hewitt Wells Company, and Mr. D. F. Antonelli, Secretary-Treasurer, Auto Centers, Inc., submitted the design of a parking garage to be located at 1335 E Street, N. W. The design showed a three-story open-deck reinforced concrete structure faced with enamelled aluminum sheets. Adjoining the building on the east, a stair tower was sheathed in limestone for harmony with the adjoining building. In the discussion of the design, the general principle of suitability of scale and materials for a structure on this site was stressed. The possibility of completion of the unfinished portion of the Federal Triangle and the proposed erection of a civic monument on the site of former Temporary War Building V, between 14th and 15th Streets, were cited as compelling reasons for treating the facade in a manner that would be more harmonious, in design and materials, with the existing buildings and future developments. The principal recommendations involved reducing the size and the horizontal emphasis of the openings on the street facade and the use of limestone instead of metal as a facing material. Mr. Wells said he would restudy the facade and would present revised designs at the next meeting of the Commission in October.

17) NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING OF BAKES AND CONFECTIONERY WORKERS UNION, 16th and K Streets, N. W. Mr. William Holabird, Holabird, Root and Burgee

The Secretary reported that the Zoning Advisory Council had made the unusual request that the plans for the above mentioned building be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for approval of the design before the Zoning Council would approve a zoning revision that would permit erection of the building. Although not in an area under the jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts, the future development of Sixteenth Street was considered to be of general interest and it was believed that the Commission should put itself on record as opposing commercial exploitation of this important street. The design of the building was a typical office building design. After considerable discussion, the members agreed to withhold action and directed the Secretary to invite the architect, Mr. William Holabird, to come before the Commission of Fine Arts at its next meeting on 10 October 1956 to discuss the problems involved.

18) GENERAL WILLIAM MITCHELL STATUE. Mr. P. E. Garber, Head Curator, National Air Museum, Smithsonian Institution, presented the photographs of the full-size model of Bruce Moore's statue of General William Mitchell. The small size model had been approved previous to the appointment of Mr. Orr, Mr. Perry, Mr. Harrison, and Mrs. Muir, and this was their first opportunity to view it. Mrs. Muir stated her opinion that demands for a representational and detailed handling of the statue possibly prevented the figure's developing into as fine a work of art as might have been. The members of the Commission who approved the statue considered it to be a factual image of the subject such as is appropriate to a historical museum. After a long discussion, the motion was made that approval be given to the figure representing the General but recommending that further study be made of the lettering and its spacing on the base. Mr. Garber thanked the Commission

for its recommendations and stated he would present new studies at the next meeting in October.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted, with Mrs. Muir dissenting:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, with Mrs. Muir dissenting, approve, and hereby they do approve, the statue of General William Mitchell for the National Air Museum, Smithsonian Institution, and consider it to be a factual image of the subject such as is appropriate to a historical museum, but recommending that further study be made of the lettering and its spacing on the base.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
10 OCTOBER 1956

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. M.

- 9:30 1. Convene, Room 7000 Interior Department Building
- (a) Minutes of meeting 13 and 14 September 1956
 - (b) Date of next meeting
 - (c) Shipstead-Luce Report
 - ✓ (d) Old Georgetown Report
- 9:45 2. Orientation - items in order of business
- 10:00 3. ✓ District of Columbia Highway Department - Interchange at center leg of Southwest Highway, architectural features. (Mr. Gerard I. Sanger, Chief, Office of Planning; Mr. Wm. J. H. Hough, Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson)
- 10:30 4. ✓ Shipstead-Luce submission (informal) - National Headquarters Bldg. of Bakery & Confectionery Workers Union at 16th & E Sts., NW (Mr. Wm. Molabird, of Molabird, Root & Burgee)
- 10:45 5. ✓ Department of Defense - Civilian Award for Meritorious Service. (Mr. Thomas H. Jones, sculptor, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Va.)
- 11:00 6. Old Georgetown Act submissions - (Mr. Louis A. Simon, Mr. Walter Haeuber, and Mr. Walter D. Peter, Jr., members of the Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown)
- ✓ (a) OS 1562 Proposed Garage for the Golden Commissary Corp. at 1058-76 Thirtieth St., NW
 - ✓ (b) OS 1627 Revision of permit #9-10085 to indicate twin d/h sash on 2nd fl. stair hall instead of single d/h sash as originally indicated at 1525-35th St., NW
- 11:30 7. ✓ Shipstead-Luce submission (informal) - (Continued) Parking Garage at 1335 E St., NW (Mr. Hewitt Wells, of Hewitt Wells Co.; Mr. Kingman Gould, Auto Centers, Inc.) Revised design
- 11:50 Recess

P. M.

- 12:20 8. ✓ Shipstead-Luce submission (formal) SL 1879 Sign for Munsey Trust Co. at 1329 E St., NW (Mr. Roger H. Wells of Regal Neon Signs, Inc.) View sample letter for proposed sign for bldg.

P. M.

- 12:30 9. Freer Gallery of Art, inspection of art acquisitions.
- 1:00 Lunch in Secretary's dining room - Interior Department
- 2:00 10. District of Columbia (Brigadier General Thomas A. Lane, Engineer Commissioner):
- (a) Replacement of street light standards in the District of Columbia by highway-type standards
 - (b) Constitution Avenue Bridge - status
- 2:45 11. General William Mitchell status - revised lettering for base (Mr. Paul E. Garber, Head Curator, National Air Museum, Smithsonian Institution)
- 3:00 12. Shipstead-Luce submission, (informal) (Continued) Proposed building for Peoples Life Insurance Co. at 25th St. & New Hampshire Ave., NW (Mr. George W. Petticord, Jr., arch., with revised model of bldg.)
- 3:10 13. National Capital Planning Commission - Land acquisition, George Washington Memorial Parkway (Upper Potomac River)
- 3:20 14. Discussion:
- (a) Congressman Frank Thompson's request for information
 - (b) Congressman Frank Thompson's draft legislation to increase the duties of the Commission of Fine Arts
 - (c) Executive Order for the Commission of Fine Arts - progress report
 - (d) New Highway Legislation - Public Law 627/84th Congress, Threat of increased traffic in the monumental area
 - (e) Zoning report of National Capital Planning Commission on Proposed Revised Zoning Regulations for the District of Columbia as approved by the Commission on 9/11/56
 - (f) Letter from Quartermaster General, U. S. Army regarding death of Colonel Wall
 - (g) General Services Administration - Construction Projects outside Washington, D. C.
 - (h) Proposal for Board of Architectural Consultants for Shipstead-Luce Act
- 3:45 15. Shipstead-Luce submissions (formal) (See Appendix 1)

Adjourn

